Lead Bank Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

934. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Andhra Pradesh which have been covered under the Lead Bank Scheme, district-wise and the details of Lead Banks of each district; and

(b) the role being played by these Banks in improving credit flow to these districts of the State particularly the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The number of Districts which have been covered under the lead bank scheme in Andhra Pradesh are 23 as per details given below:

S.N	Name of the District	Name of Lead Bank
1.	Srikakulam	Andhra Bank
2.	East Godavari	-do-
3.	West Godavari	-do-
4.	Guntur	-do-
5.	Vizianagaram	State Bank of India
6.	Vishakapatnam	-do-
7.	Medak	-do-
8.	Mahboobnagar	-do-
9.	Warangal	-do-
10.	Ranga Reddy	State Bank of Hyderabad
11.	Balgonda	-do-
12.	Nizamabad	-do-
13.	Kahammam	-do-
14.	Karimnagar	-do-
15.	Adilabad	-do-
16.	Prakasham	Syndicate Bank
17.	Nellore	-do-
18.	Kurnool	-do-
19.	Ananthapur	-do-
20.	Cuddapah	-do-
21.	Krishna	Indian Bank
22.	Chitoor	-do-
23.	Hyderabad	State Bank of Hyderabad

(b) The Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) was evolved as a framework to respond more effectively to the needs of the rural economy. District are earmarked to commercial banks so that they could act as pace-setters in the districts allotted in providing integrated banking facilities. They act as consortium leader to coordinate the efforts of banks in the district particularly in the matters like branch expansion and credit planning. Lead District Manager (LDM) prepares a background paper for preparation of Annual Credit Plan. Bank-wise, sector-wise, block-wise targets as agreed to by the banks operating in the district are aggregated and the task to be completed as per time schedule of RBI.

Increase in Inflation Rate

935. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of inflation has gone up and the value of rupee in comparison to US Dollar, UK Pound and Euro Dollar has gone down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The average inflation for the current financial year (till July 5,2003) on the basis of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities has been estimated at 4.5%.This is marginally higher than the average inflation rate of 3.4% in 2002-03. The annual average value of the Indian Rupees vis-a-vis the US Dollar, UK Pound, and the Euro, for the previous year (2002-03) and the current year (2003-04) is indicated in the table below:

Annual Average value of Rupee

Year	US Dollar	UK Pound	Euro
2002-03	Rs. 48.39	Rs. 74.82	Rs. 48.09
2002-04 (April-June)	Rs. 47.05	Rs. 76.19	Rs. 53.52